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Mount Rushmore National Memorial News Release

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Environmental Assessment Completed for Effluent Recycling

The Environmental Assessment (EA) for an effluent recycling system at Mount Rushmore has been completed and finalized, with a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI). This document analyzes the environmental effects of constructing a system for storing and reusing treated wastewater.

“The EA process proved to be a critical tool in our decision making process, and public input played a key role,” said Duane Bubac, the Memorial’s Acting Superintendent. “When completed, we will draw significantly less water from our well while improving the care and maintenance of park facilities which will include enhanced fire prevention and suppression capabilities.”

Planning for the new system will begin in earnest and will involve regular consultation with the South Dakota Department of the Environment and Natural Resources (DENR). “We will work closely with DENR to ensure that we meet or exceed State health and environmental standards”, said Bubac.

This project was made possible through a partnership with the Mount Rushmore National Memorial Society. The Society is a non- profit organization dedicated to the preservation and improvement of Mount Rushmore National Memorial. “Without the Society’s help, it’s unlikely this important project would have moved forward anytime in the foreseeable future”, said Bubac.

The EA and FONSI are available for review at the Mount Rushmore National Memorial website at www.nps.gov/moru. For further information about this project, people may call Duane Bubac, the park’s Facility Manager and Acting Superintendent at (605) 574- 3112.